

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-188 (canceled)

189. (previously presented) A prefastened absorbent article comprising:

a top sheet;

a back sheet;

an absorbent core sandwiched between the top sheet and the back sheet;

a back waist portion having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first lateral end and a second lateral end;

a front waist portion having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first lateral end and a second lateral end;

a prefolded unitary nonwoven connector having a prefolded first portion, a second portion and a prefolded third portion, the second portion being disposed between the prefolded first portion and the prefolded second portion, the prefolded first and third portions being retained in the prefolded condition by at least one of adhesive and heat seal, the second portion of the prefolded unitary nonwoven connector being attached permanently to the inner surface of the back waist portion so as to cover the full width of the back waist portion from the first lateral end of the back waist portion to the second lateral end of the back waist portion;

a first hook fastener disposed at an end portion of the prefolded first portion and a second hook fastener disposed at an end portion of the prefolded third portion such that when the absorbent article is folded laterally, the first and second hook fasteners engage one of the inner and outer surfaces of the front waist portion.

190. (previously presented) The prefastened absorbent article of claim 189, wherein the absorbent core is rectangular.

191. (previously presented) The prefastened absorbent article of claim 189, wherein the first, second and third portions of the prefolded unitary nonwoven connector make up three separate pieces that are joined together.

192. (previously presented) The prefastened absorbent article of claim 191, wherein at least 90 percent of the second portion of the prefolded unitary nonwoven connector is non-elastic nonwoven and the first and third portions are made of a single layer elastic nonwoven or a composite of at least two layers at least one of which is a stretchable film.

193. (previously presented) The prefastened absorbent article of claim 189, wherein the prefolded unitary nonwoven connector is breathable.

194. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 189, wherein the absorbent core has a first longitudinal end and a second longitudinal end, and at least one of the first and second longitudinal ends of the absorbent core extends under a portion of at least one of the first and second lateral ends of the back waist portion at which the second portion of the prefolded unitary nonwoven connector is attached.

195. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 189, wherein the lateral ends of the front and back waist portions are folded at least once inwardly.

196. (previously presented) The absorbent article of claim 189, wherein the second portion of the prefolded unitary nonwoven connector is attached to a portion of the back waist portion that is partially fluid impermeable and partially fluid permeable.